National Weather Service Spring Flood Outlook #3

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National Weather Service – Des Moines, IA

March 13, 2020

Spring Flood Outlook

As of 3/10

River	Spring Flood Risk
Mississippi River	Much Above Normal
Missouri River above Platte River	Above Normal
Missouri River below Platte River	Much Above Normal
Tributaries to Mississippi River in Iowa	Above Normal (Variable in northeast Iowa)
Big Sioux River	Above Normal
Other Tributaries to Missouri River in Iowa	Above Normal

National Weather Service 2020 Spring Flood Outlook Schedule

Thursday, February 13, 2020; Thursday, February 27, 2020 & Thursday, March 12, 2020

Levee Breaches on Missouri River

As of 3/10

Map Legend

2019 Levee Breach Locations

- Open
- Closed

Levees

- Levee
- Floodwall
- Closure
- High Ground
- Road
- Railroad
- Bridge

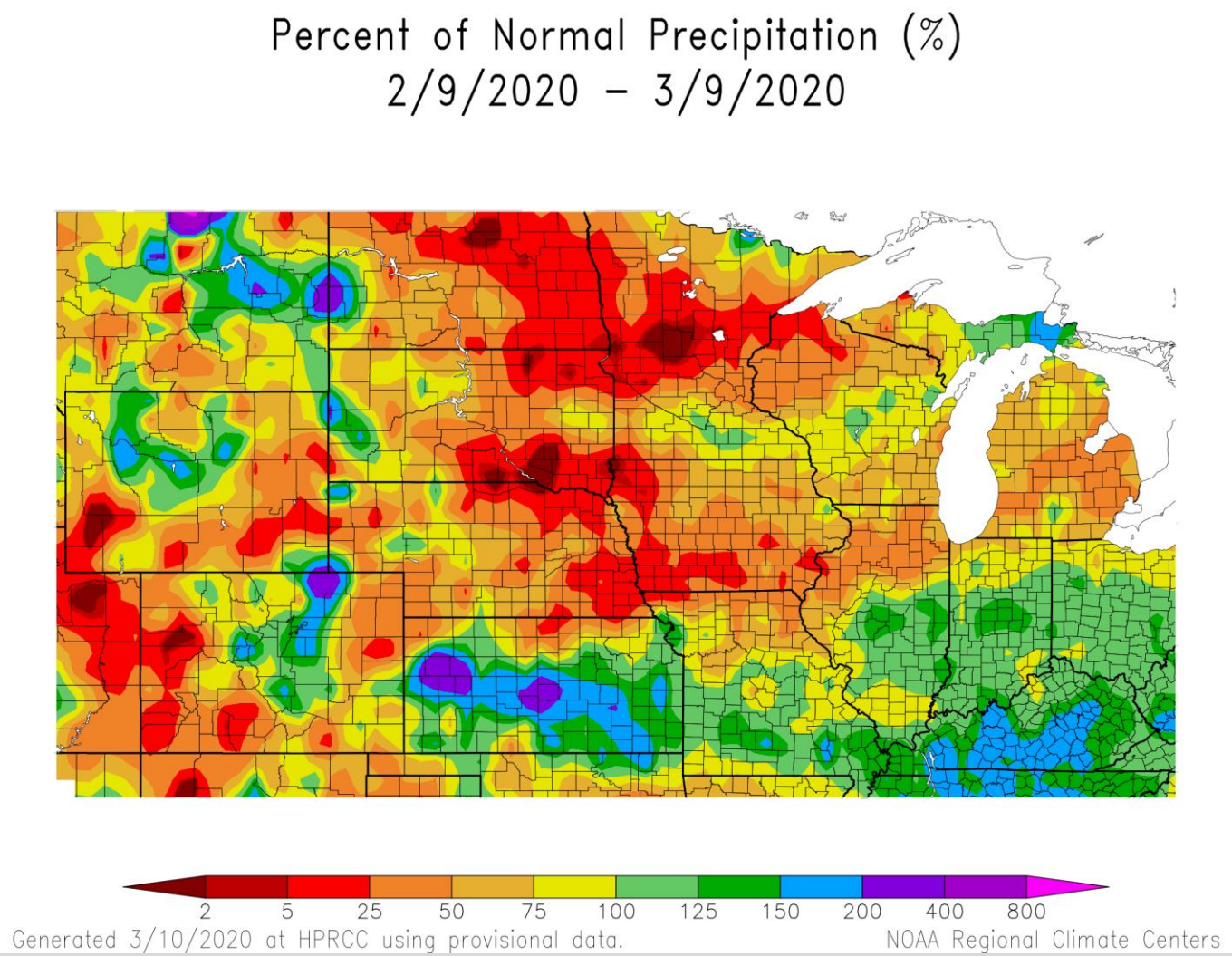
Levee System Status

- NA
- Active
- Inactive
- ?

URL: https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Omaha-District-System-Restoration-Team/

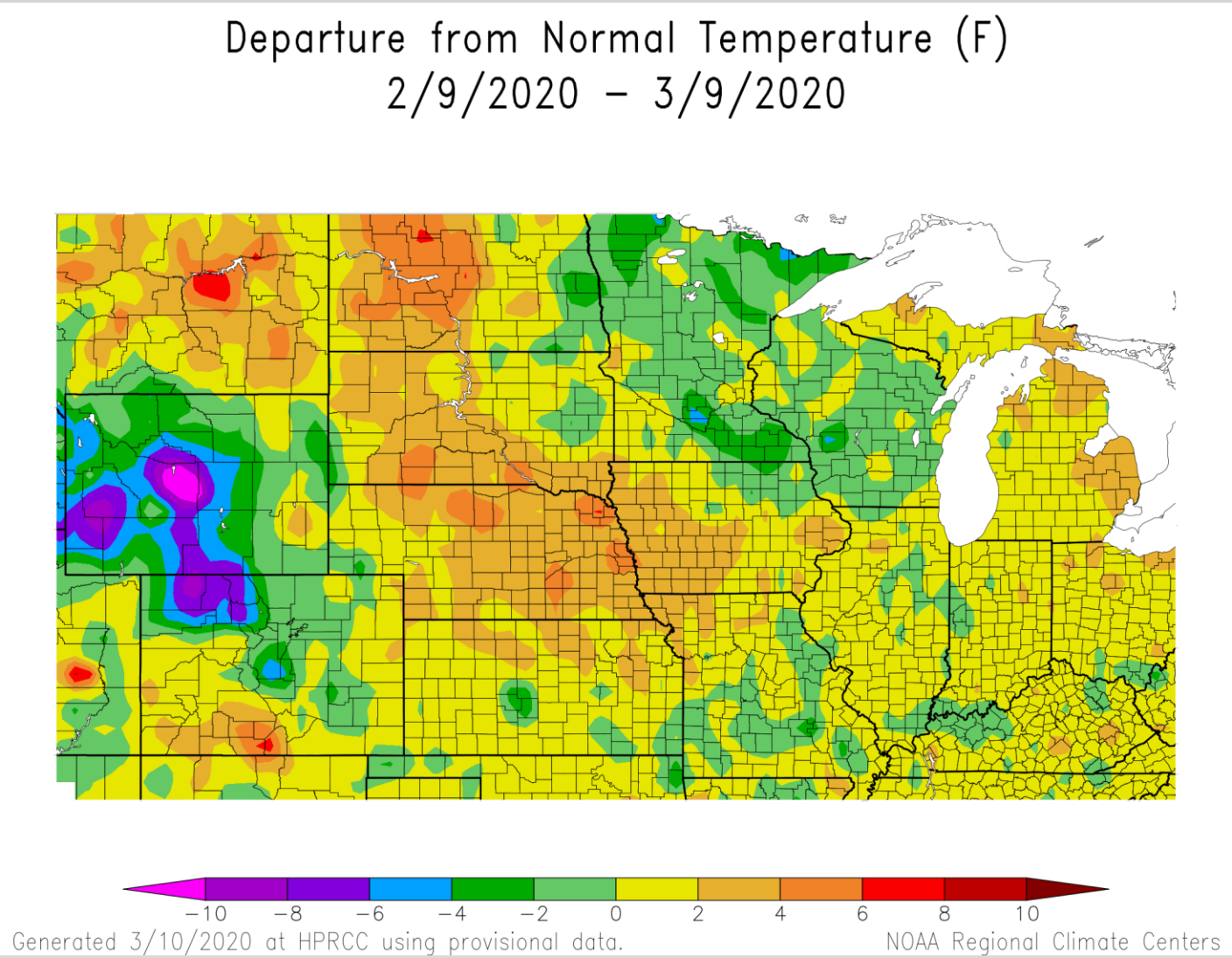
Precipitation % of Normal

Past 30 Days



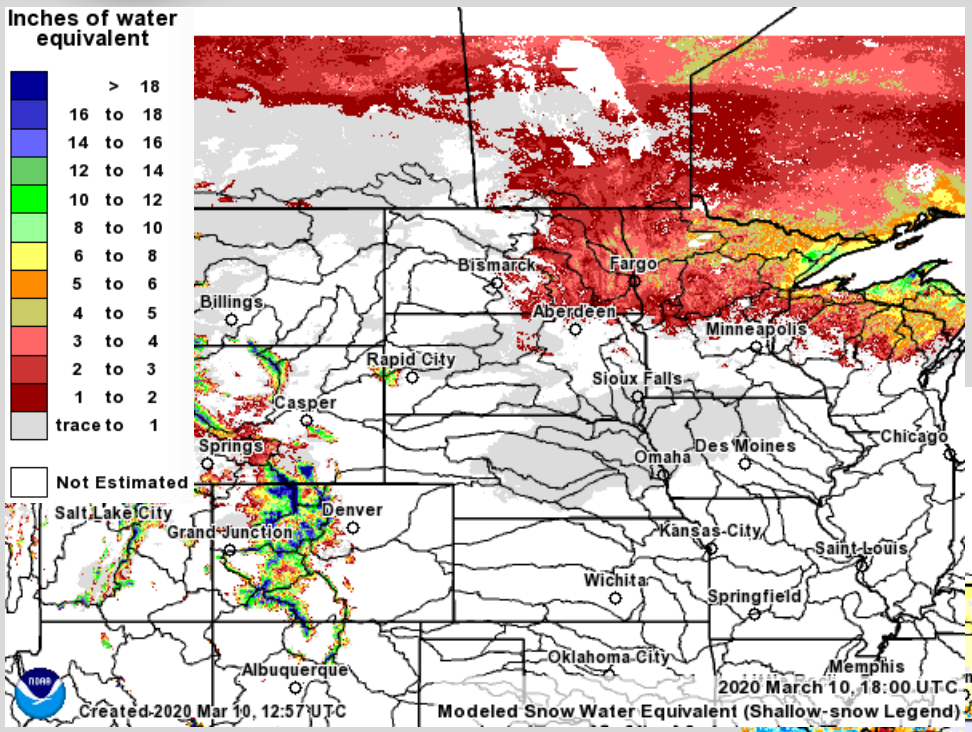
Temperature Dep from Normal

Past 30 Days



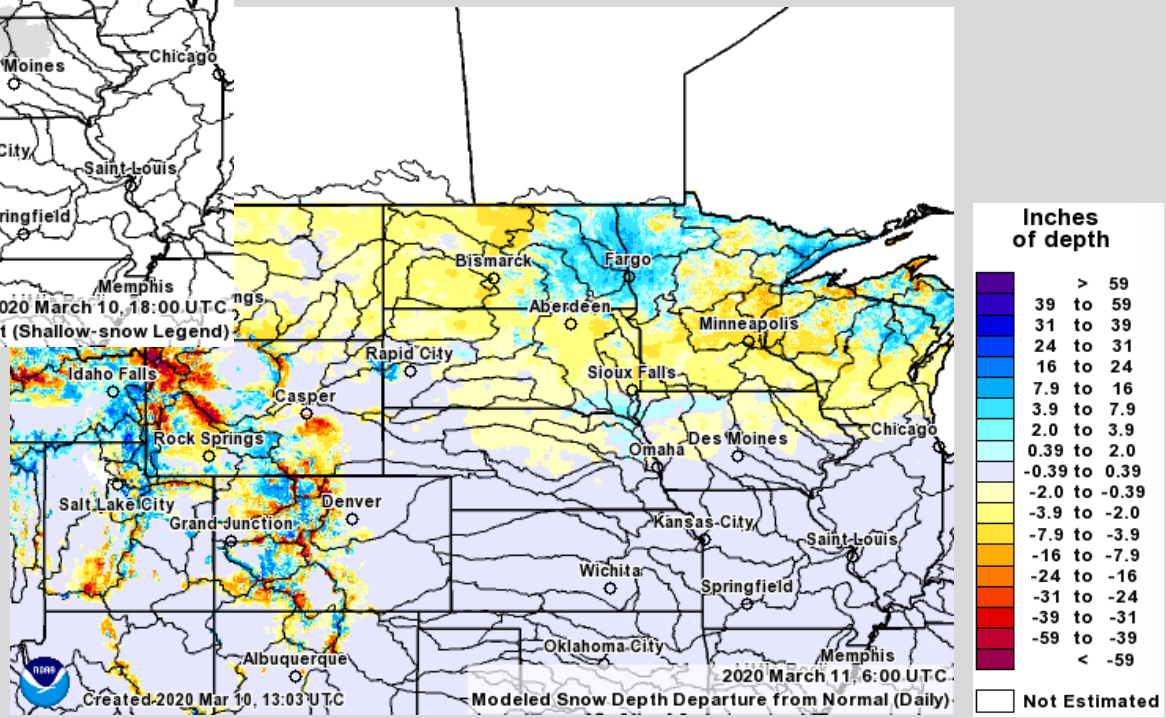
Snowpack

Water Equiv & Depth vs. Normal, 3/10/2020



Snow Water Equivalent

Snow Depth vs. Normal



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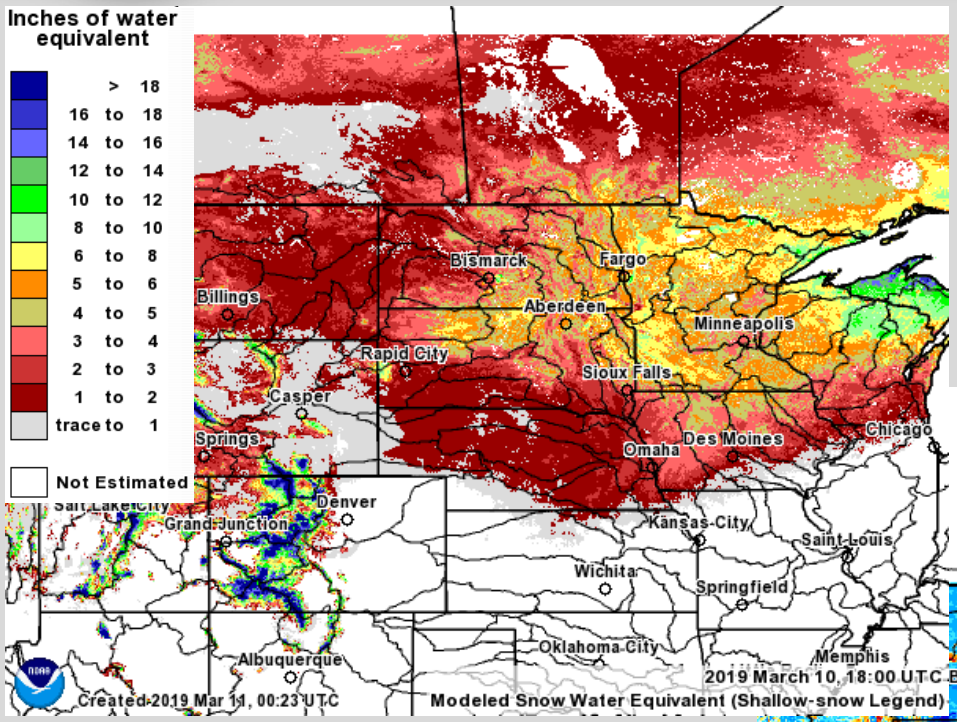
Water Equiv & Depth vs. Normal, 3/10/2019



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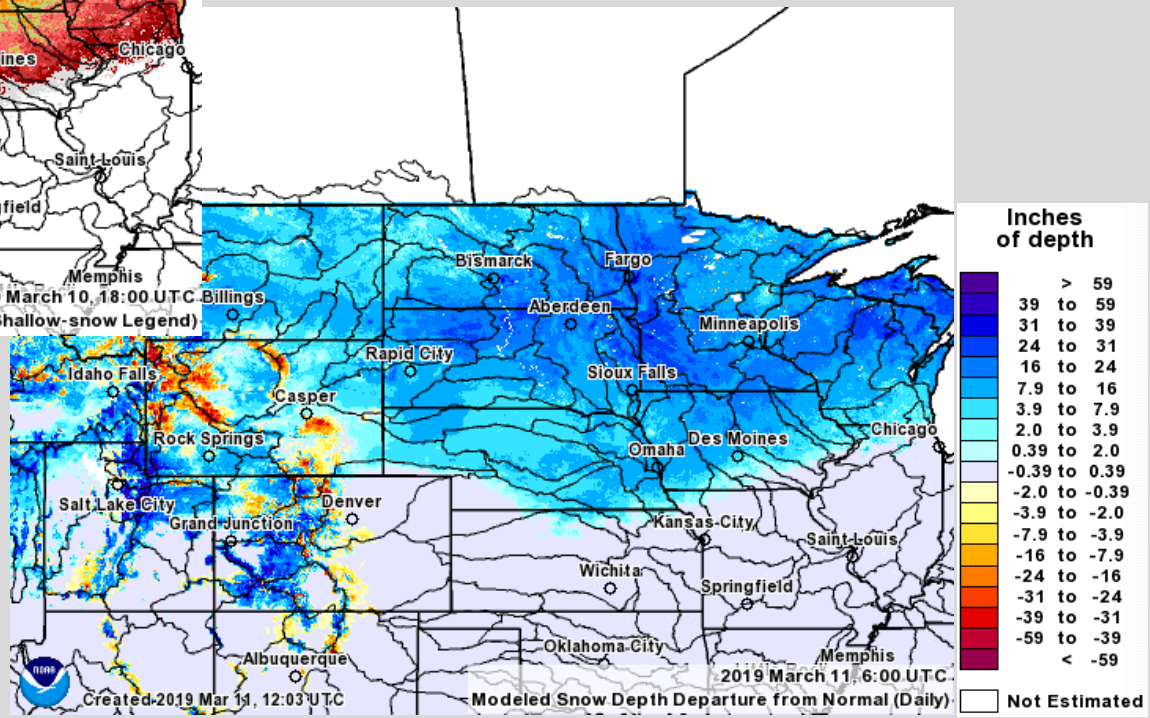
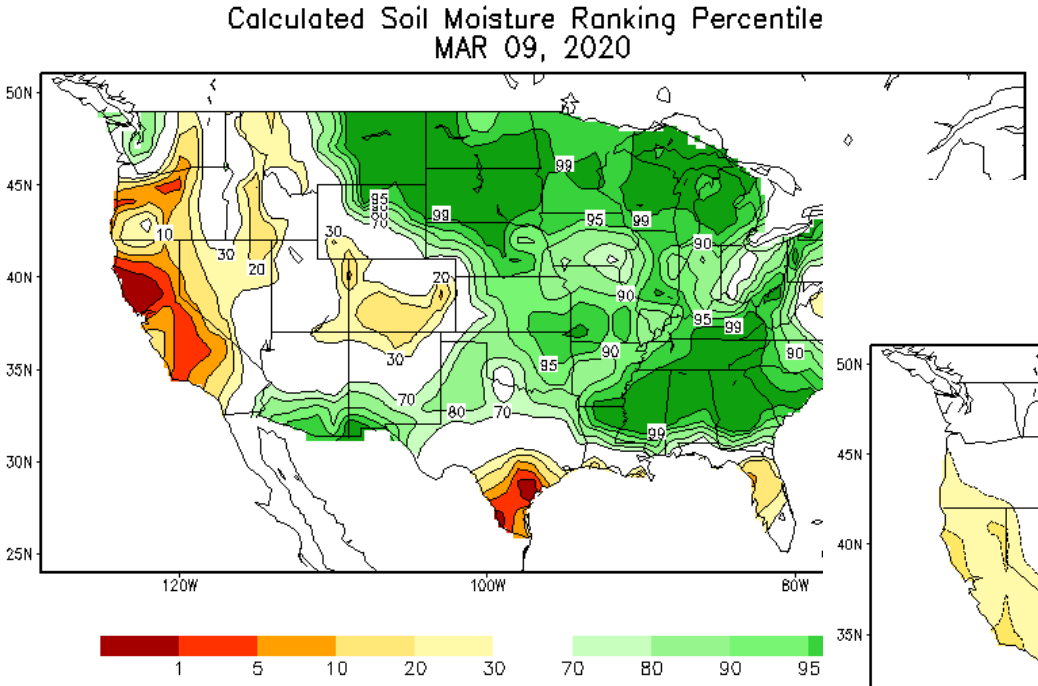


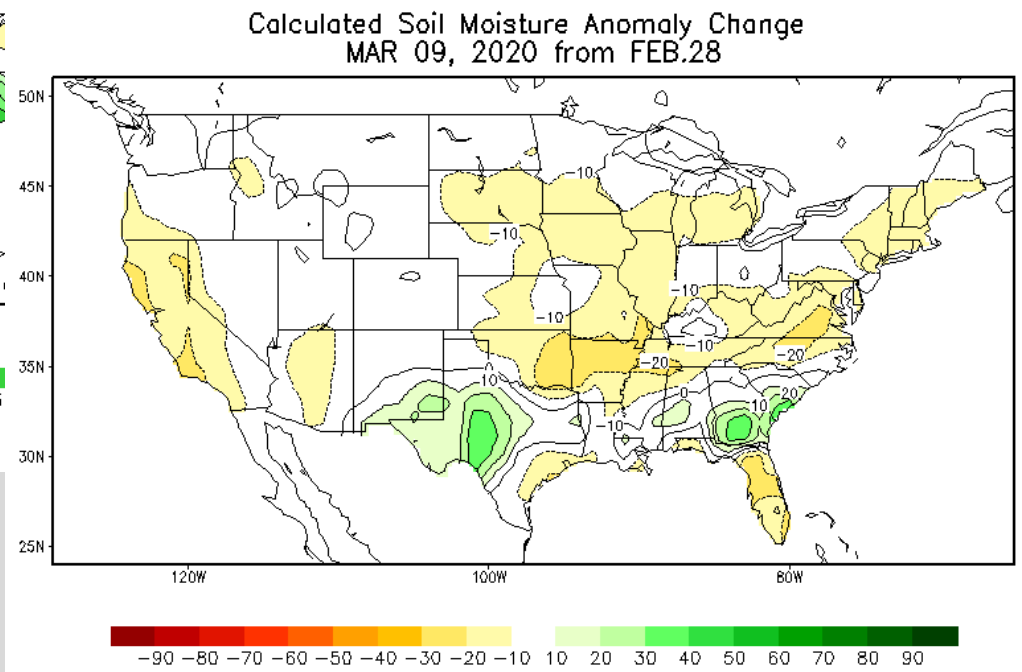
Soil Moisture Percentile

Current Values & Change, 3/9



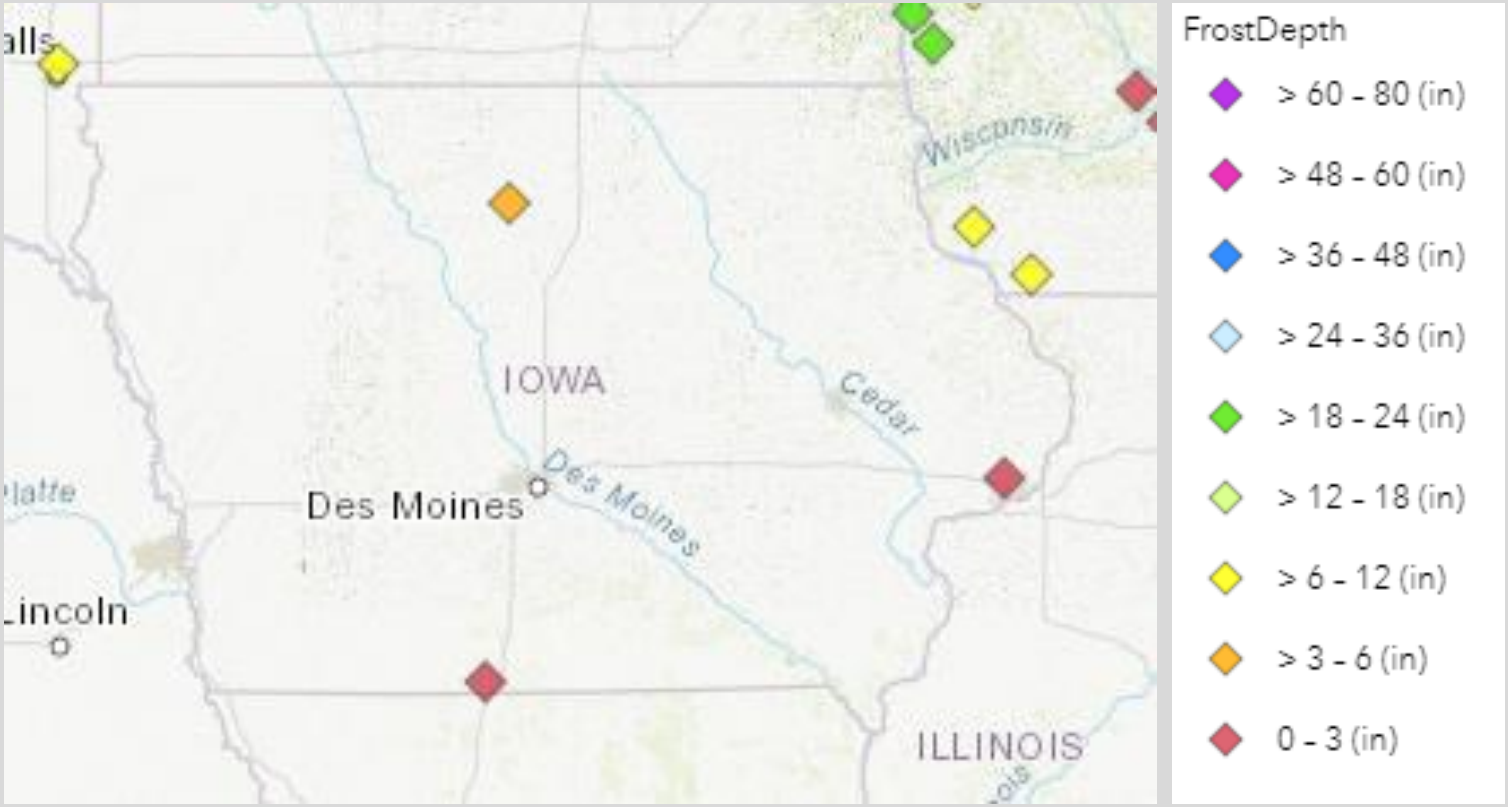
Current Percentiles

Change



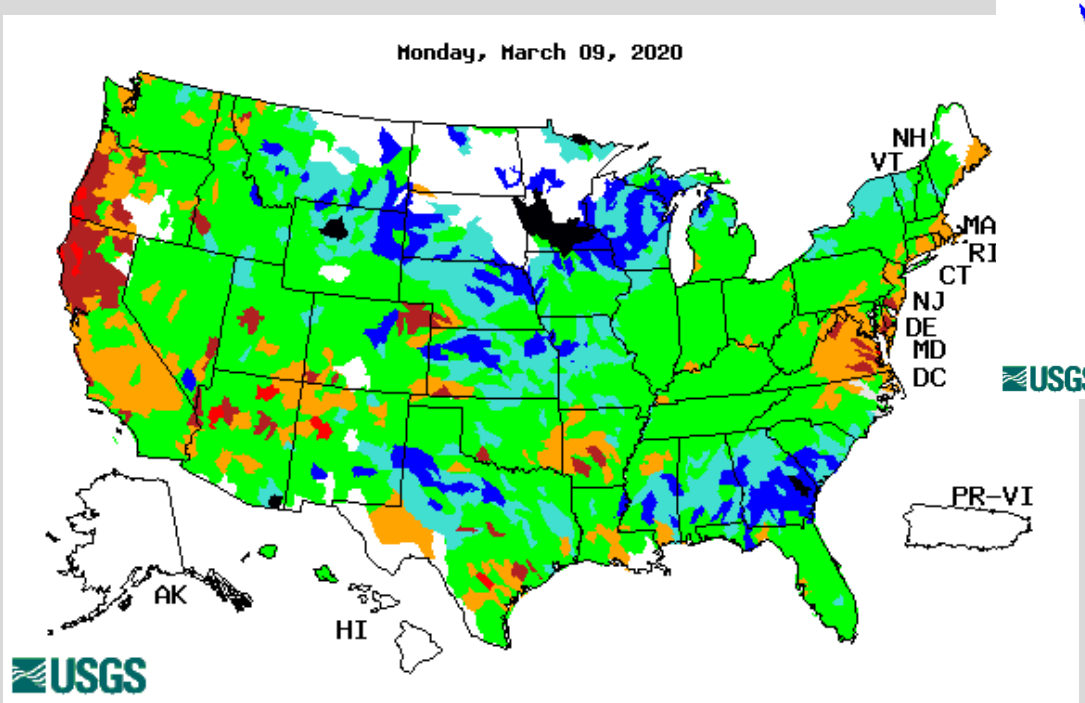
Ground Frost

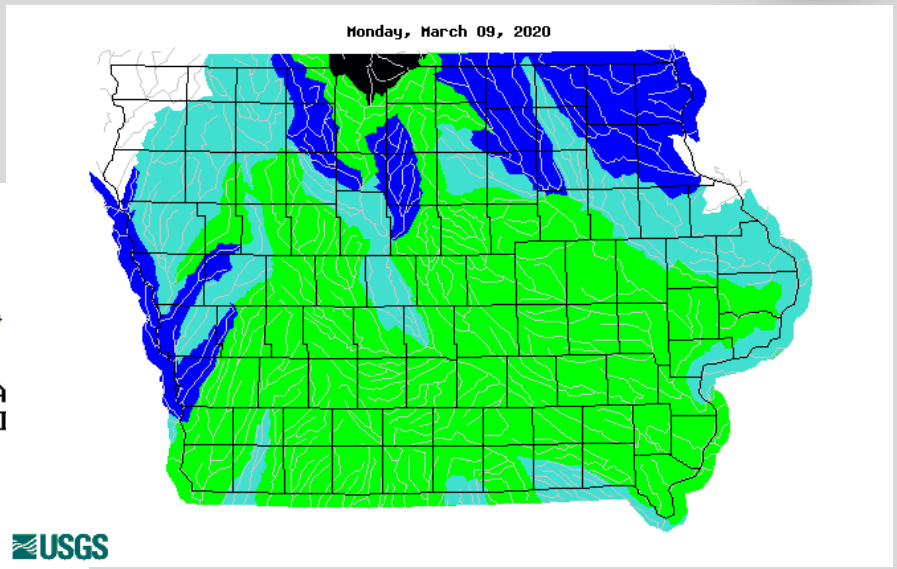
Depth, 3/10



Current Streamflow

Values vs. Normal (Percentiles), 3/10



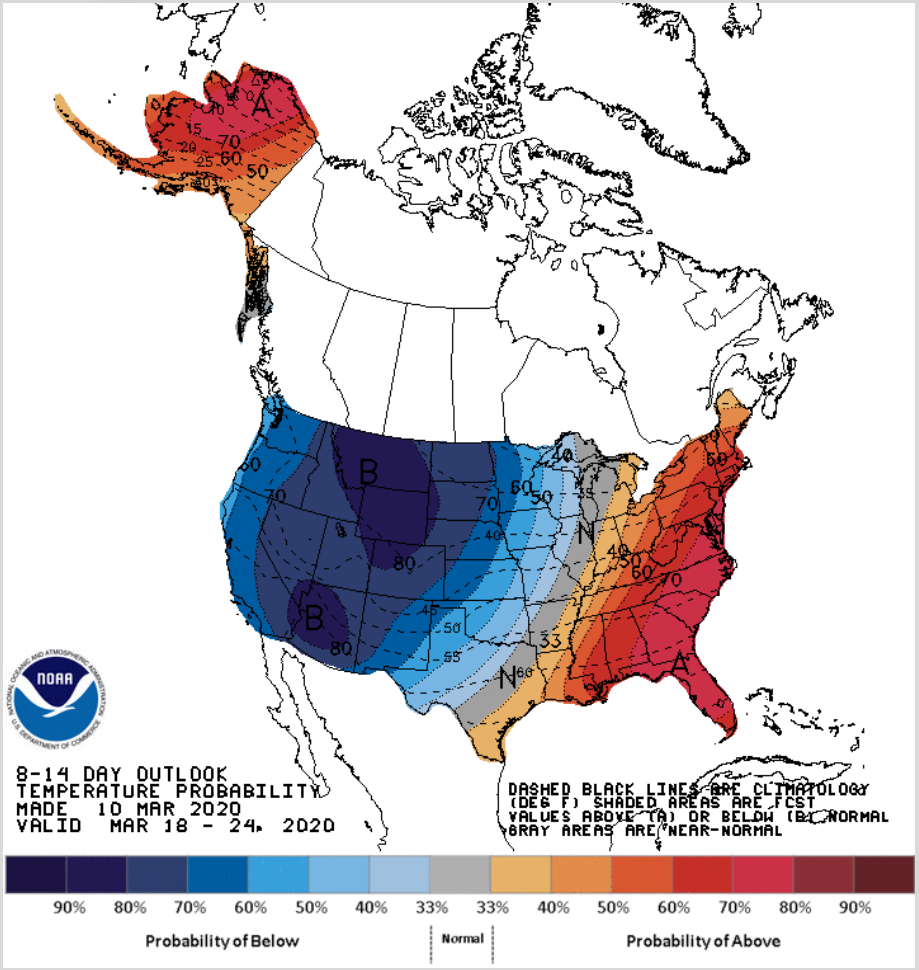


Explanation - Percentile classes

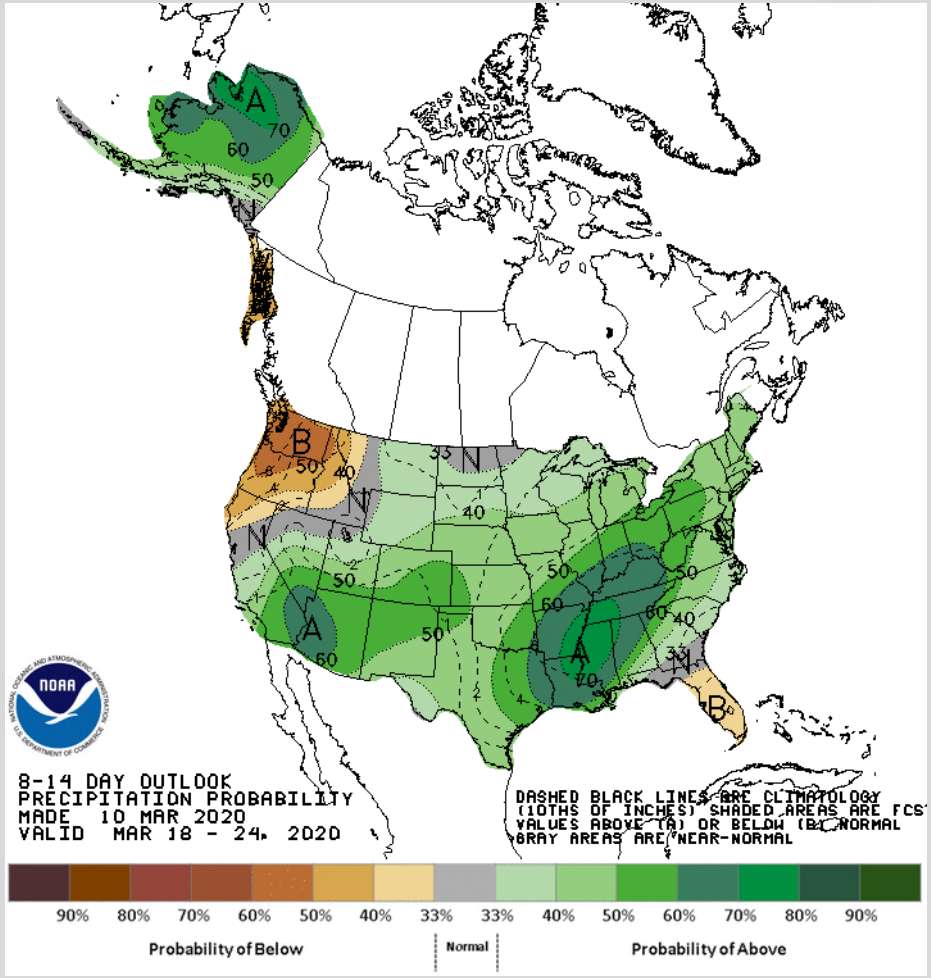
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS science for a changing world

2-Week Temp/Precip Outlooks



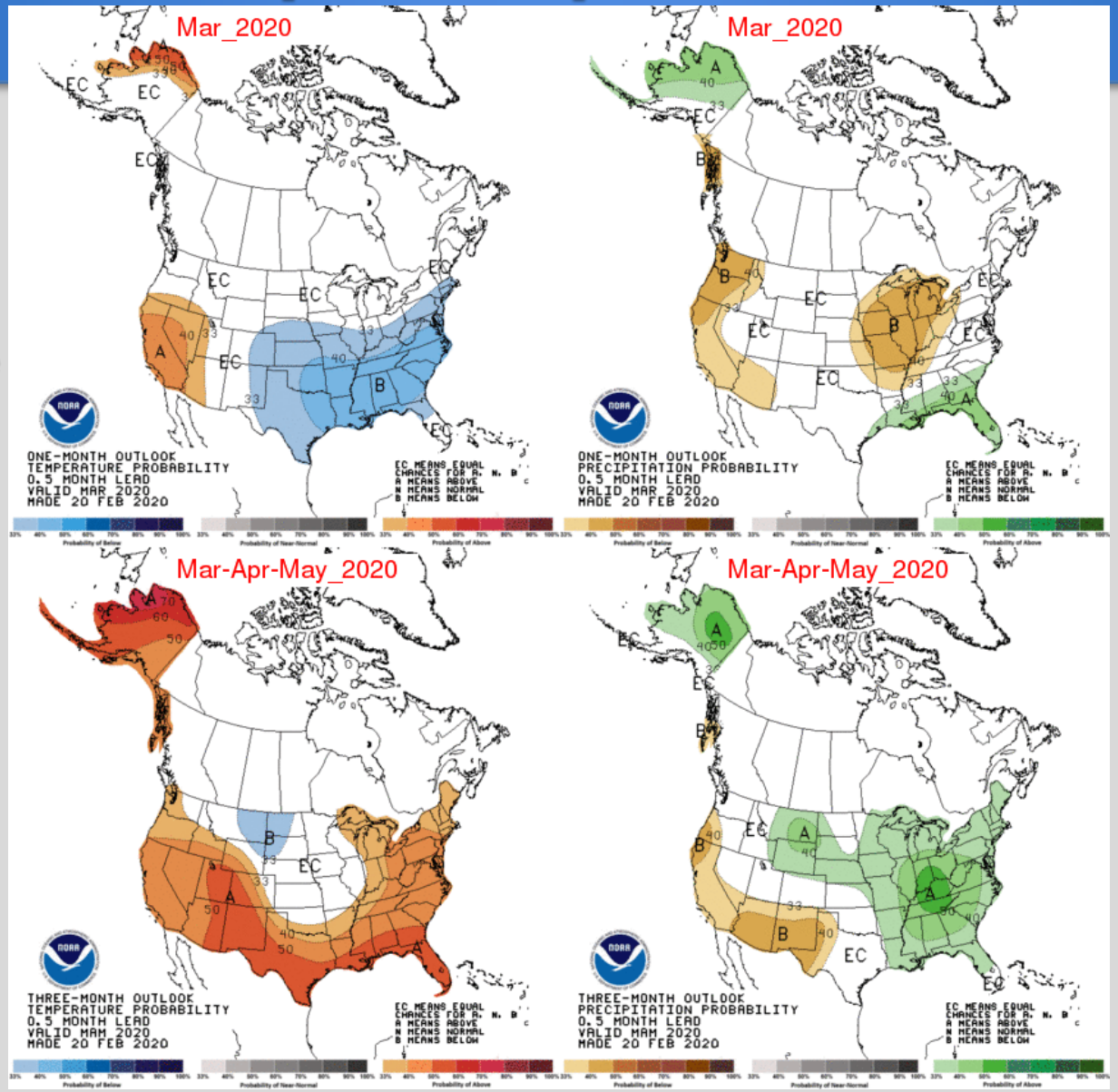
Temperature



Precipitation

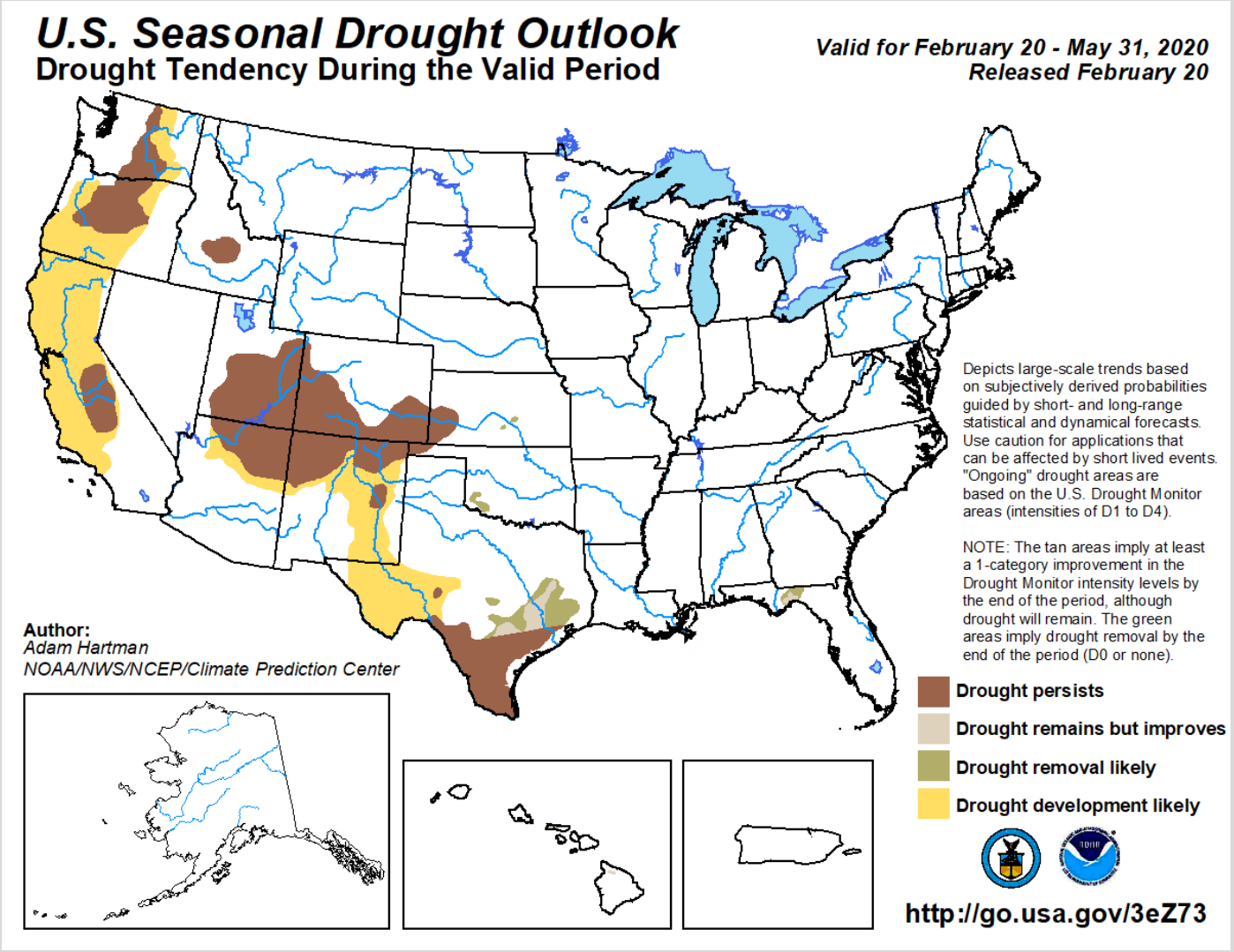
Temp/Precip Outlooks

Temperature on Left



Precipitation on Right

Seasonal Drought Outlook



Spring Flood Outlook Factors

As of 3/10

Factor	Contribution to Flood Risk
Snowpack	Lowered Risk
Soil Moisture	Increased Risk
Frost Depth	Lowered Risk
Streamflow/Stream Levels	Increased Risk
Precipitation Outlook	Increased Risk

2020 Mississippi River Spring Snowmelt Timing

(Dubuque, IA → Gregory Landing, MO)

Rising river levels expected through March. Peak river levels remain highly uncertain. ***Flooding from snowmelt runoff alone is not a certainty.***

Locations that do reach flood stage will likely see that happen between March 18 and March 25. Timing and peak heights is ***highly*** dependent on additional precipitation in the next several weeks.

*** NOTE: Dry conditions through March would keep peak levels lower. In this case, some locations could crest at levels below flood stage. Stay tuned to official forecasts and flood products over the coming weeks.***

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Thank You

- **NWS Office Contacts**
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